

REMARKS

Applicants have submitted this Request for Continued Examination so that the Examiner may consider the alternate claims as modified herein. More specifically, by this amendment, Applicants have modified each of the independent claims to additionally specify the invention as requiring that: a diffusion region that is connected to a power source is laid out to be physically adjacent to the photoelectric conversion element in order to provide an overflow path.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the prior art rejections set forth by the Examiner under 35 USC sections 102 and 103. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art references of record, whether considered alone or in combination fail to either teach or suggest the characteristic features of the present invention as now specified.

More specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that it is only the instant application which describes the formation of a diffusion region connected to a power source and being formed such that it provides an overflow path. Applicants note that these additional features of the present invention are set forth on pages 15-16 of the instant application. Applicants respectfully submit that neither Gowda nor Tanaka nor any of the remaining references of record teach or suggest this advance in the art which advantageously enables the resultant device to achieve improved performance while also minimizing the overall physical footprint of the individual pixel elements. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the references of record describe or suggest these unique and advantageous features of the invention.

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Reply to Office Action of November 9, 2009
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Accordingly, in light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance. In the event that it is deemed necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3891.

Respectfully submitted,

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